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CLASSIFICATION SECRET

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Tank and AT Units in the Zeitz Forest.

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 5 September 1955

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REFERENCES

PAGES 1

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. From 15 to 17 August 1955, the Artillerie Kaserne (8542) in Zeitz was occupied by approximately 350 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets. On 17 August, a wooden garage for approximately 30 vehicles was completed in the western portion of the installation. At 1300 on the same day, a column of 4 T-34/45 tanks, truck [redacted] and ambulance [redacted] moved toward Forst. Zeitz troop training grounds. On 18 August, [redacted] tanks and 1 SU-100 gun were parked near the target range of the installation. During the period under review, the Infanterie Kaserne (8541) was occupied by approximately 120 soldiers wearing black-bordered red epaulets with artillery insignia and red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. In addition to 50 soldiers who were engaged in athletics/only sanitary were seen. 2 [redacted]

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2. On 16 August, 50 T-34/85 tanks, 12 JS-1 and JS-2 tanks, 10 JS-3 tanks, 16 x 100-mm AT guns and 24 x 85-mm AT guns were seen in the Kaiserseiche - Grosser Stern area at the Forst Zeitz training grounds. Ninety to 100 trucks were parked at the Friedenssiedlung. On 18 August, 6 large tents and 6 field kitchens were noted east of the Kossweda-Nickelendorf-Lesser road. Six T-34/85 tanks, 2 JS-2 tanks, 2 JS-3 tanks and approximately 30 additional tanks, which were well camouflaged and entrenched, were seen near the tents. Soldiers seen there wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. [redacted]

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3. Comment. The information indicates that the bulk of the 36th Gds Tank Regt of the 20th Gds Mecz Div. was in the Zeitz Forest in mid-August. [redacted]

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gun regiment of the 20th Arty Brig stationed in Cera was there.

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2. Comment. Individual shipments from Zeitz to Ohrdruf after mid-July indicate that elements of the 67th Gds Mecz Regt of the 20th Gds Mecz Div. are in Ohrdruf together with the bulk of the other elements of the division from Weimar and Jena. [redacted]

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